

4.1.1 Lake County, Illinois

The Lake County Stormwater Management Commission (LCSMC) is responsible for implementing the Comprehensive Stormwater Management Plan that was adopted in 1990. The plan coordinates stormwater activities for 90 jurisdictions within the county and includes guidelines for reducing flooding and water pollution, improving the existing drainage system, mitigating flood hazards, promoting the multipurpose use of open space and natural floodplains through land use planning, providing inter-jurisdictional coordination and technical assistance, and educating the public.

The Watershed Development Ordinance (WDO) was created as a result of the Comprehensive Stormwater Management Plan. The WDO, adopted in 1992 and revised in 2001, regulates new development countywide. Performance standards in the WDO include hydraulically equivalent compensatory storage for floodplain fill at a ratio of 1.2 to 1, on-site detention, buffer requirements that range from 30-100 feet along streams, and soil erosion control. The WDO also states "no development shall be allowed in the Regulatory Floodplain that shall singularly or cumulatively create a damaging or potentially damaging increase in flood heights or velocity or threat to public health". Generally, floodplain elevation increases below 0.1 feet are allowed if they are confined to the channel banks or an easement while increases greater than 0.1 feet are forbidden.

In addition to enforcing the WDO, LCSMC has developed management plans for four watersheds (26 subwatersheds) within the County; Lake Michigan, North Branch of the Chicago River, Des Plaines River and Fox River (Figure 4-2). The watershed plans provide direction for improving water quality, reducing flood damage, and protecting natural resources. The plans are used to guide zoning activities, preserve open space, and to identify potential land acquisitions. Each watershed plan consists of recommendations for improving the watershed and coordinates the implementation between jurisdictions.

The Williams Park Voluntary Buyout Project was implemented as a result of the Fox River Watershed Plan. The Williams Park Subdivision is located in the floodplain of Slocum Lake, a tributary to the Fox River. Phase I of the project was completed in 2000 and consisted of the acquisition of 24 homes and lots through the use of the Federal Management Agency's (FEMA) Flood Hazard Mitigation Program (FHMP) and other funds. The total cost for Phase I of the project was \$2.14 million. Phase II of the project is expected to acquire an additional 23 homes with the aid of a separate FHMP grant and other funds.